

ENCYCLOPÆDIA  
OF THE  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
IN THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

INCLUDING THE NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN ASSEMBLIES.

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AND OTHER EMINENT MINISTERS OF THE CHURCH.

Including a Description of the Historic Decorations of the Pan Presbyterian Council of 1880,

By REV. HENRY C. McCOOK, D. D., LL. D.

*Walk about Zion, and go round about her: tell the towers thereof. Mark ye well her bulwarks, consider her palaces, that ye may tell it to the generation following—PSALM XLVIII, 12, 13.*

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the originators of the *New York Observer*, and a valuable contributor.

**Coyle, Rev. Robert F.**, was born in the county of Northumberland, Province of Ontario (Dominion of Canada), July 28th, 1850. He graduated from Wabash College, Ind., in the class of 1877, and filled the position of Tutor in the same Institution for one year. He studied theology at Auburn Seminary; was licensed to preach by the Presbytery of Crawfordsville, April 12th, 1879; was ordained by the Presbytery of Fort Dodge, Iowa, October 1st, 1879, and was installed pastor over the Church of Fort Dodge, in October, 1881. Here his labors have been signally blessed. Mr. Coyle's sermons bear the mark of scholarly preparation, yet he preaches without manuscript. His presentation of truth is doubly powerful, because along with eloquent, aggressive, logical argument, there is ever manifest the deep pathos and tender love and interest of the speaker. He preaches from the heart as well as from the intellect. He has the strong attachment of his people.

**Craig, Rev. John**, was born in Ireland, September 21st, 1710, but educated in America. He was licensed by Donegal Presbytery, August 30th, 1738, and was sent to Deer Creek (now Churchville, Md.), and to West Conococheague. He spent the Summer in those places, and Conewago and Opequhon. West Conococheague called him, in the Fall of 1739, but he declined a settlement in that charge. Mr. Craig was sent, at the close of 1739, to Opequhon, Irish Tract, and other places in Western Virginia. He was "the commencer of the Presbyterian service in Augusta." He gathered two congregations in the south part of the Manor, now Augusta county, and in April, 1740, received a call from the congregation of Augusta and Tinkling Spring, where he was ordained and installed, September 3d, 1740. He resigned the charge of Tinkling Spring, in November, 1754, but remained pastor of Augusta till his death, April 21st, 1774. Mr. Craig was a man mighty in the Scriptures, "in perils oft, in labors abundant," for the gospel. Those who knew him held his memory in the highest veneration.

**Craig, John Newton, D. D.**, son of George Evans and Matilda Guthrie Craig, was born in Rockingham county, Va., May 14th, 1831. Though born in Rockingham county, his family, on both sides, have been for more than a century identified with Augusta county, Va. In his boyhood he had for several years a business training. Having graduated at Washington College (now Washington and Lee University) in Va., he was for one year Principal of a male academy at Baxter Brook, Va. His studies were then pursued for two years in the University of Va., for two years in Union Theological Seminary, Va., and for one year in the Theological Seminary in Columbia, S. C. Leaving the Seminary in 1869, he became pastor of the churches of Lancaster C. H., Waxhaw and Douglass, an intelligent and influen-

tial charge in Lancaster county, S. C., and continued there, with the exception of a brief interval of absence on duty, until called to the pastorate of the Church at Holly Springs, Mississippi, in 1870. From that pastorate he was unanimously elected by the Southern General Assembly, in session at Lexington, Ky., in 1883, to be its Secretary of Home Missions.

As a preacher, his controlling thought has been to teach the *truth*, and this he does with directness and power. As a pastor, his genial manner and sympathetic nature endeared him, not only to the congregation, but to the community, daily widening and strengthening an influence extending to all classes of the people. He enters upon his new field of labor in the prime of life, in robust health, and in command of that zeal and industry which should surely work to the extension of "the kingdom."

**Craig, Willis Green, D. D.**, son of William Craig, M. D., who had served as a Surgeon in the U. S.



WILLIS GREEN CRAIG, D. D.

Army in the war of 1812, was born on his father's plantation, near Danville, Kentucky, September 24th, 1834. While yet a mere lad, he entered Centre College, at Danville, Kentucky, and was graduated in June, 1851, three months before he was seventeen. For the next seven years he was associated with his brother in the management of a large plantation. In the Fall of 1858 he entered Danville Theological Seminary, where he enjoyed the instructions of Drs. Breckinridge and Humphrey. He was licensed in the Spring of 1861, and commenced his ministerial labors in Keokuk, Iowa, April 1st, 1862, with the First Westminster Presbyterian Church, as pastor of which he was ordained and installed the following

November. His pastorate at Keokuk extended over a term of twenty years, and was eminently prosperous. His church grew and flourished, and enjoyed many precious seasons of revival.

After the reunion of the Old School and New School Denominations in 1870, the New School Church of Keokuk united bodily with Dr. Craig's Church, without the change of pastor ordinarily deemed necessary in such unions, and its members soon became as warmly attached to him as the others. A commodious parsonage was built in the early part of his ministry, and soon after the union of the two congregations a new church was erected, a large and handsome stone structure, in the Gothic style of architecture. Dr. Craig exerted a wide influence in the cause of religion and education in Iowa, and took an active part in laying the foundations of society in that young and growing State. He was especially active in the founding of Parsons College, at Fairfield, Iowa, of whose Board of Trustees he is still (1883) President. He also gave much labor to the interests of the Theological Seminary of the Northwest, of which he was a director, and lent important aid in piloting that Institution through the financial difficulties consequent upon the Chicago fire and the panic of 1873.

In 1881 Dr. Craig was elected to the Chair of Biblical and Ecclesiastical History in the Seminary. His congregation at Keokuk strenuously resisted his removal from them, and his Presbytery, unwilling to part with one whose influence was so potent for good throughout the State, declined to release him. The following year, however, upon the renewed and urgent application of the friends of the Seminary, his congregation and Presbytery consented to his transfer to the Professor's Chair. He entered upon the duties of his Professorship in September, 1882.

**Craighead, Rev. Alexander**, was born the son of the Rev. Thomas Craighead. He was licensed by the Presbytery of Donegal, October 8th, 1734, and was sent to Middle Octorara and "over the river," being the first to whom that duty was assigned. He was installed pastor of Middle Octorara Church, November 18th, 1735. A zealous promoter of the "revival," he accompanied Whitefield while in Chester county; and they made the woods ring, as they rode, with songs of praise. He entertained peculiar views of church discipline and government, which he very earnestly maintained, and which involved him in very considerable trouble.

Mr. Craighead is said to have removed to Windy Cove, on Cowpasture River, in Augusta county, Va., in 1749. A large buttonwood tree, close to the river bank, marks the site where stood his humble cabin. About half a mile above stood his log church. He and his people went to the House of God fully equipped to meet any sudden attack of savages. He joined New Castle Presbytery before the Fall of 1754. On Braddock's defeat his congregation fled from the

frontier, and a portion settled in North Carolina. Mr. Craighead met with Hanover Presbytery, September 2d, 1757, and in January, was sent to Rocky River, in North Carolina, and to other vacancies. He was called, in April, to Rocky River, and Mr. Richardson, on his way to labor among the Cherokees, was directed to install him. He died in March, 1766, leaving behind him the affectionate remembrance of his faithful, abundant and useful labors.

**Craighead, James Geddes, D. D.**, was born in the vicinity of Carlisle, Pa., in March, 1823; studied at Dickinson College, Pa., and graduated at Delaware College in 1844. He graduated at the Union Theological Seminary, New York city, in 1847, and was licensed by the Fourth Presbytery of New York, in April, 1847. In the Fall of that year he became a Home Missionary in Wisconsin, and was stated supply of the Church in the city of Watertown, Wis., 1849. His health failing, he returned east, and was pastor of the Presbyterian Church at Northumberland, Pa., 1850-4. Subsequently, he was editor of the *New York Evangelist*, 1856-70; traveled for health in foreign countries, 1870-6; was Secretary of the Presbyterian Historical Society, 1876-8, and now is Professor of Systematic Theology, New Testament Greek, and Dean of the Theological Department of Howard University, Washington, D. C. Dr. Craighead was faithful as a pastor, and very successful as editor. He fills his present important position very acceptably. He is a gentleman of ability, of great force of character, and ready to help any good cause. He is the author of several excellent and popular volumes.

**Craighead, Rev. John**, was born near Carlisle, Pa., in 1742. He graduated at the College of New Jersey, in 1763; studied theology with Dr. Robert Smith, at Pequea; received ordination from Donegal Presbytery, about 1767; and was installed as pastor of Rocky Spring Church, near Chambersburg, Pa., April 13th, 1768, continuing to be so until 1798. He died, April 20th, 1799.

The old church at Rocky Spring is still extant. Though somewhat altered, it retains substantially the pristine features. The aisles are paved with brick; the pews are straight-backed and of unpainted oak; the narrow pulpit, with its sounding-board, is painted light blue; the elders' bench, a thick slab of wood; the communion service, of pewter, from London, and black with age. Two ten-plate stoves, of the most primitive form, warmed the house, the stove pipes ascending, through holes in the ceiling, into the garret, whence the smoke escaped, without any chimneys, the best way it could. The side door is still shown, where Mr. Craighead stood and harangued the men assembled in the churchyard, and so stirred up their patriotic feelings that they organized themselves into a company and went through the Revolutionary War, with their pastor for their captain and chaplain.